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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Volkspolizei Bereitschaften of Land Thuringia

EVALUATION [REDACTED]

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

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REMARKS

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Former 1st VP Bereitschaft (Arty) in Erfurt.

1. The 1st VP Bereitschaft (Arty) of Land Thuringia was deactivated in mid-December 1950. Its personnel were used to activate a new VP Bereitschaft in Erfurt, to which officers and police of the former 5th VP Bereitschaft in Erfurt and from the VP posts of Prora, Eggesin, Brandenburg and Priemwald also were reassigned.

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[REDACTED] The authorized strength of the new unit was 2,000 police.

2. Prior to its reorganization, the 1st VP Bereitschaft (Arty) was located at Auf der Henne, Erfurt, and numbered about 1,200 police, organized into four Kommandos. Its officers included VP Inspekteur Moeller, (fnu), commanding officer; VP Rat Winkler, (fnu), PK officer; VP Oberrat Ritterlich, (fnu), commanding officer of 3d Kommando; and VP Oberkommissar Frauendorf, (fnu), PK officer of 3d Kommando. The Bereitschaft's equipment included two Soviet 120-mm guns, three Soviet 76-mm AT guns and four German light field howitzers. Sheltered in sealed buildings were five Soviet 150-mm guns, seven Soviet 240-mm guns and six T-34 tanks. *

Former 5th VP Bereitschaft (Inf) in Erfurt.

3. The 5th VP Bereitschaft of Land Thuringia in Erfurt-Petersberg was dissolved on 10 December 1950 and most of its personnel were reassigned to the former 1st VP Bereitschaft, Erfurt. A VP school was said to have been established in the Petersberg.
4. Prior to its deactivation the 5th VP Bereitschaft (Inf) numbered 1,000 police, organized into three Kommandos, each of 200 men, and one Sonderkommando of 100 men. The officers of the unit included VP Oberrat Helbing, (fnu), commanding officer; VP Rat Schiffler, (fnu), PK officer; VP Oberkommissar Rosbach, (fnu), Director of training, who was reassigned to the VP Bereitschaft in Muehlhausen on 10 December 1950; VP Oberkommissar Horn, (fnu), liaison officer to Soviet Army; VP Oberkommissar Arndt, (fnu),

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SED secretary; VP Oberkommissar Koninski, (fnu), commanding officer of 1st Kommando, who was transferred to Gotha on 8 December 1950; VP Oberkommissar Peter, (fnu), commanding officer of 2nd Kommando, who was transferred to Luehlhausen on 2 December 1950; and VP Rat Lewicki, (fnu), commanding officer of 3d Kommando, who was reassigned to the Luehlhausen VP post on 2 December 1950. The Bereitschaft was equipped with light and medium mortars, models 34, 42 and Maxim machine guns, and small arms. *

Former 10th VP Bereitschaft (Inf) in Apolda.

5. The 10th VP Bereitschaft (Inf) of Land Thuringia in Apolda was deactivated in mid-December 1950 and its personnel reassigned to VP units in Grossenhain and Gotha. VP officer candidates were transferred to the VP officer school in Naumburg and PK students to the polit-culture school in Treptow, formerly located in Torgau. ** Officers of the 10th VP Bereitschaft included one Bruendel, (fnu), PK officer, who was transferred to the Gera VP post; VP Oberkommissar Blankenstein, (fnu), who was reassigned to the polit-culture school in Treptow; and another police officer, formerly the commanding officer of the Sonderkommando, a mortar unit, who was reassigned to the Gotha VP post.

* [] Comment. The merger of VP Bereitschaften of various branches of service and the activation of cadre Bereitschaften under the reorganization program of NVA units has been reported from the VP posts of Brandenburg, Gotha, Hochstedt and Grossenhain.

It is therefore credible that a new cadre Bereitschaft was formed from the deactivated 1st VP Bereitschaft (Arty) and 5th Bereitschaft (Inf) in the Henne Kaserne, Erfurt. The Petersberg Kaserne in Erfurt having thus been vacated, it is possible that a VP school was established there.

* [] Comment. A previous report stated that an apparently new VP Bereitschaft (Arty) has been quartered on the premises of the VP polit-culture school in Torgau. [] It is therefore credible that the polit-culture school was moved to Berlin-Treptow, although no confirmatory information has been received from there.

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